

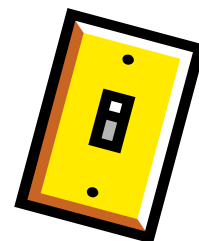
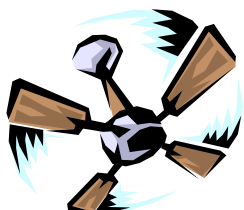
Residential Energy Efficiency Tips

During warm weather months, demand for electricity in Wisconsin is greater than other times of the year. Utilities plan and build the electric system to have extra capacity available so customer outages are unlikely. Because of higher electrical use, this extra capacity is smaller in warm weather months, increasing the likelihood of outages.

What can you do to help?

The following actions will help your local utility throughout the warm weather months. Taking these actions will be especially important if your local utility finds it necessary to issue a public appeal to reduce energy use.

- Sign up with your electric utility's central air conditioner load control program.
- Clean or replace your air conditioner filter regularly. Turn the air conditioner off when not at home. Raise the thermostat setting on your air conditioner 4° to 5° F. or turn on ceiling fans in occupied rooms, rather than air conditioners, to circulate air. Close shades and curtains during the day to keep the heat out.
- Put timers on your dehumidifier or freezer so they run only at night.
- Cook outdoors.
- Run your dishwasher early in morning or late evening, and only when full.
- Wash clothes early in morning or late evening and dry them on a clothesline.
- If you have an electric water heater, shower and wash clothes and dishes in the late evening.
- Limit the use of small appliances during the day – *especially* heat producing appliances (such as toasters, coffee makers, electric fry pans, curling irons, etc.)
- Turn the lights off when you leave a room.
- Minimize the amount of time your refrigerator and freezer doors are open.
- Turn home computers and televisions off with a power strip when not in use.



Longer term electricity (and money) saving actions:

The following actions are also excellent ways to reduce electricity use, and save you money. However, they will require some expenditures. To learn what specific energy efficiency improvements are applicable to your home contact Focus on Energy at 1-800-762-7077.

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs where bulbs are on a lot of the time.
- Replace older inefficient appliances, such as a refrigerator or air conditioner, with newer, more efficient models.
- Caulk and weather-strip.
- Add insulation to your roof, if needed.
- Plant shade trees close to the house on the south and west sides.
- Consider replacing electric dryers, stoves, and water heaters with natural gas appliances.



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